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EAST GERMAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
BUILDS NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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EAST GERMAN MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
BUILDS NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

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[REDACTED] the East German Ministry of National Defense (MINAVE) presently is building for its own use and possibly for the use of the East German Air Force a microwave radio relay network between outer terminals near the cities of Neubrandenburg and Cottbus. Two inner terminal stations are included, one near Wolsickendorf and one near Muencheberg (see the accompanying map). Initially the network will be provided with one set of East German RVG 934 equipment, which provides 22 telephone channels. One or more of these telephone channels will be arranged to carry an unstated number of teletype channels.

The equipment at all stations will be housed in hardened, underground concrete bunkers "for protection against air raids." Self-supporting towers of a maximal height of 25 meters will support the antennas, and easily erected replacement towers will be available at each station for emergency use. The towers will be topped with "rotating parabolic reflectors, 1.5 meters in diameter" for purposes that are not stated. Connections to the microwave relay line from unknown distant points will be made by underground, multiconductor cable. The cables at the north and south terminals will accommodate 22 channels, but those at the intermediate terminals at Wolsickendorf and Muencheberg will accommodate 88 and 110 channels, respectively, to take care of growth in the capacity or coverage of the line.

The decision to build the southern half of the line, known as RF 2, was made late in 1958, and the decision to construct the northern half, known as RF 1, was made in 1960. The equipment was ordered early in the projects for delivery in 1962, but the manufacturers, VEB Rafena,

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It is speculated that the basic purpose of this new network is to provide a private, semibombproof telecommunications facility to serve the command-control structures of the East German Ministry of Defense, if not of the government, as a dependable alternate medium to other available networks in the country. 2/ The East German Air Force, presently deployed in a more or less north-south line in the eastern portion of the country where this new network is located, may be one of the principal military users.

The most significant aspect of this new network is the placement of the two inner terminal stations. These stations have been located east of Berlin near Strausberg, the major headquarters of the East Military establishment, and near the "Strausberg Objekt" (the main communications center of MINAVE) at Kagel. The location of these stations, together with the provision of an entrance cable with a much higher capacity near Strausberg and Kagel rather than at the two outer terminals (near Neubrandenburg and Cottbus), suggests that the network may be intended to serve the Strausberg Objekt in emergencies as well as normal headquarters at Strausberg in peacetime. 3/ Moreover, recurrent, [REDACTED] reports during the past several years indicate that nearby Ruedersdorf may be the planned wartime command post location of the Group of Soviet Forces, Germany.

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Analyst:

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Sources:

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2. CIA. CIA/RR ER 61-25, Planned Development of Telecommunications in East Germany, 1959-75, May 1961. S/NOFORN

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CIA. CIA/RR CB 62-57, East Germany Extends SED Command-Control Communications Network into All Kreise, 13 Sep 62. S/NO FOREIGN DISSEM.

3. Ibid.

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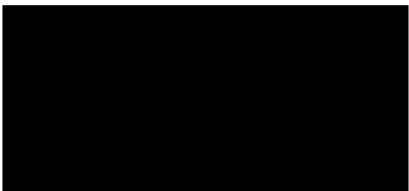
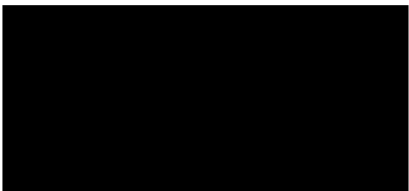
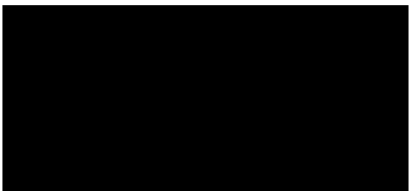
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